

To the Teachers and Lecturers at St. Antholins (so called) Elders, Members and Hearers thereof.

I Coming amongst you on the second day of the tenth moneth in the morning, and not being satisfied with what the Teacher declared there, I asked a Question, and no sooner did the words proceed out of my mouth, but the Priests auditors knockt me down with violence, and tore and rent me, and pluckt my Coate to pieces, which is a shame to Christianity, and a dishonour to the pure Religion, and to the Lord God and to Christ, that in such mouths his Name should be dishonoured and prophaned, as though you had never heard talke of God nor Christ your fruits declare, who are like a cage of unclean birds; is this the fruits of the Church of Christ? is there the Apostles and Christs example in this among you? have they taught you these practises, who are more like unto a company of bruit beasts, salvages, than Citizens or an Assembly of Saints, neither have you an example from scripture to act these things, except it be from *Cain*, the raging *sodomites* beast, and false prophets, or the mad *Jewes*, for these fruits of yours stinks to all modesty and sober people. If these be your fruits and satisfaction at *St. Antholins*, and the end of your Lecturing, to knock down and tear cloaths, such as desire but a Question answered; have you no way to stop the mouths of gain-sayers, are you all naked men, no spiritual weapons among you? is this your receiving strangers? What if it had been one that had opposed himself, would you have knockt him down presently, or torne his cloaths off from his back? Who would be of your Religion?

Therefore for shame give over your profession, since you have no better fruits than these, as if you had neither heard of God nor Christ, nor scriptures, which stinks to all modesty and sober people, and is a shame to have no better Rule, Order nor government among you, a company of unclean nasty people gathered together without any Rule or goverment, like a cage of unclean birds, that a Question asked should set all on fire thus, that you should be so wanting patience, and your Teacher looking on, which shews he hath not profitted you, but who is it that should fit you, such a one as divines for money, and teacheth for filthy lucre, and bears rule by his means, that will preach peace to you while you put into his mouth, and ye full of wickednesse. And so from a Lover of your souls and your Eternal good, but loaths these barbarous and unchristian actions, the *Turks* and *Jewes* could do no more; Therefore if the witnesse in your conscience doth not smite you and make you ashamed, to which I leave it to clear me in the sight of God.

Thomas Rawlinson.